

## WE ARE NOT MISSED.

If you and I  
To-day should die  
The birds would sing the same to-morrow;  
The vernal spring  
Her flowers would bring.  
And few would think of us with sorrow.  
"Yes, he is dead,"  
Would then be said.  
The corn would floss, the grass yield lay,  
And cattle would graze,  
And summer go,  
And few would heed us pass away.  
How soon we pass!  
How few, alas!  
Remember those who turn to mold!  
These faces fade,  
With autumn's shade,  
Beneath the sodden churchyard cold.  
Yet if we so  
We come and go!  
They had our birth; they mourn us dead;  
A day or more  
The winter is over—  
Another takes our place instead.

## THE CAPTAIN'S MESSAGE.

"It's perfectly ridiculous," said Miss Daffodil, "for you girls to be thinking of getting married all the time. I never do. Now just look how this fall has panned out, and the waves of the sea. If you young women weren't cackling and chattering all the time these things wouldn't happen. Valentine's day, indeed! Who was that talking about St. Valentine's day? And what is St. Valentine's day to you working girls, I'd like to know? It's only ladies that have time to think of such things."  
"But Deborah Daffodil, a somewhat faded maiden of five-and-thirty frosted autumn, was the Burnville dressmaker, and the four girls in her dingy back parlor were her assistants, who she paid a little and scolded as much as possible.  
"But Miss Daffodil, reasoned Amabel Archer, a rosy, dark-browed, little brunette, with luscious dark eyes, and about St. Valentine's day, she said, "why shouldn't we talk about St. Valentine's day? It's always a lucky day in our family. Uncle Job sent mamma a check for twenty dollars a year ago. St. Valentine's day, said Miss Daffodil, "on that very anniversary, my sister Effie met the man that she afterward married. And who knows what dawn of good fortune it may bring to me."  
"Married!" shrilly repeated Miss Daffodil, tapping her thimble-finger on the table. "There it is again! I believe you girls think of nothing else."  
"Well," said Amabel, thoughtfully, "it does mean a good deal in a girl's life. If I supposed that I had got to sit here and sew all day—"  
"I only hope that no worse lot will ever befall you," said Miss Daffodil, smiling. "But I never knew a girl who was always curling her hair and thinking of her complexion who came to any good end."  
"Anabel crimined,"  
"Do you mean me, Miss Daffodil?" she said.  
"The spinster tossed her head.  
"Then as the cap fits, let 'em wear it," said Amabel. "And I'll tell you, all young women, to leave off chattering silly, superstitious nonsense about heathenish old saints that never existed at all."  
"A girl there was a general outcry. Not even from the lips of their vain, covetous employer would the girls listen to any derogation of the darling patron saint of girlhood—the good saint to whom all maidens render loving homage. St. Valentine's day, said Miss Daffodil, "and you've none of you nothing to do with him now. And Miss Chickering's hair, said Amabel, "and here it isn't half finished. What's that, Amabel Archer? You want to get away early this evening? You're going for a moonlight sleigh-ride with Captain Juniper? Let me tell you, miss, that you will do nothing of the kind," said Miss Daffodil, speaking with added rancor. "It isn't decent nor proper for a young girl like you to go out riding around the country with every gentleman in town."  
"You went riding with Captain Juniper yourself last week, Miss Daffodil," said Amabel, all-wise forgotten in her rising indignation.  
"That's quite a different thing," said the dressmaker, sniping. "Captain Juniper and I are very particular friends."  
"Oh, Miss Daffodil!" cried out Barbara Dayton. "You're not engaged to him, oh, do tell us!"  
"Barbara, you attend to your work," said Miss Daffodil. "Though, all the same, if such reports do get abroad, I consider it my duty neither to deny nor confirm them."  
But Miss Daffodil did not consider it her duty to tell the girls that she had run half a dozen yards through the deep snow after Captain Juniper's cutter to ask him if he would just as lief as not take her as far as the village, to match some lapis-lazuli buttons for Mrs. Gregg's dress, and that the gallant captain was too chivalrous to refuse to all a lady in distress.  
And thereupon Miss Deborah Daffodil had large hopes.

"It's a few years younger than I am, to be sure," said she, "but if ever devotion was expressed in a human eye, it was in his when he handed me out the card of buttons that I wanted to match, and told me to be careful not to slip down on the frosted curbside. And when I invited him to call he thanked me and said he would be very happy. And I don't see how many could have said more than that."  
So that when she heard of Amabel Archer's invitation a very natural jealousy stirred her heart.  
"No, Miss Archer," she said, firmly, "she shall have her plum-colored silk to-morrow morning, and not one of the thirteen bias flounces are sewed on yet, and the waist trimming has to be shirred in three diagonal strips and the skirt set on."  
"Can't Barbara Dayton finish it?" said Amabel, with wistful eyes. "And I'll do as much for her some time."  
"I'll do," said cheerful Barbara.

## I'd as soon stay after hours as not.

"Excuse me," said the dressmaker, with awful stiffness of demeanor, "but I prefer to manage my business for myself. Amabel Archer must finish the dress I have begun it. Two or three different hands on a job are sure to ruin it, and I don't desire to lose Miss Watson's custom."  
"But," cried Amabel, piteously, "I promised Captain Juniper—I must go."  
"If you go," said Miss Daffodil, "you don't come back into my employment again."  
And poor Amabel Archer thought of her invalid mother and the three apple-pie-checked little sisters who were clothed and kept at school by her toil, and dared not remonstrate further.  
"But I shall hear the sleigh-bells," she comforted herself; "and I can just run out a moment and beg him to believe that it was not my fault."  
And she sat herself down by the window, and waited for the other hand-gone—she was the only one who boarded with Miss Daffodil—to sew, and sigh, and listen.  
But she heard no silver-chiming sleigh-bells. How vexed she was, when Miss Daffodil had quietly crept down the lane and intercepted the captain's gay litter, just where the old finger-post raised its skeleton form into the air?  
"Oh," said the captain, a frank, handsome young fellow, with laughing, blue eyes and a golden beard, "is it you, Miss Daffodil? I thought perhaps—"  
"Yes, it's me," said Miss Daffodil, sweetly. "I just came to tell you that Miss Archer is very sorry, but she can't go cutter-riding with you this evening. She's got a bad sore throat. Besides, she's dreadful hurried with her work."  
Captain Juniper's countenance fell. He played unconsciously with the handle of his whip, while the horse pawed the ground and flicked his jetty beard with specks of foam, all impatience to be gone.  
"I am so sorry," he said, with such genuine disappointment that Miss Daffodil could have boxed his ears.  
"But, Miss Daffodil, may I confide in you?"  
"Oh, certainly," said the dressmaker, graciously.  
"Do you believe in St. Valentine's?" he asked.  
"Do you mean," giggled Miss Daffodil, "what a very strange question! He's supposed to be the patron saint of lovers, isn't he?"  
"That's the reason I asked you," said Captain Juniper, leaning his head against the spinnaker of the worsted hood. "Do you believe in him?"  
"Of course I do," smiled the lady, with a curious flutter in the region of her throat.  
"Then I am sure I may trust you," said he, fervently. "I shall be under the easement at daybreak on St. Valentine's day to claim Miss Archer as my Valentine for the year. Tell her so, from me. Beg her not to disappoint me again."  
"Yes," said Miss Daffodil, turning a dull yellow with rage and vexation—"yes, captain, I will."  
"I shall be so much obliged to you," said the unsuspecting lady.  
"Oh, not at all," said Miss Daffodil.  
You're quite sure she didn't send me any message?" said Captain Juniper, wishfully.  
"No message," said Miss Daffodil, smoothly.

## The Doom of Steam.

Whatever else may survive in the future Dr. Siemens is certain that the steam engine is doomed. Its fate is sealed. It is doomed to be confined to the driving of large dynamo machines, which will distribute force at present supplied by a myriad of small engines, and then to be superseded altogether by the gas engine. Gas and electricity may be mutually hostile, but they are to unite their forces in order to exterminate the steam engine. The unpalatable fact of the steam engine is that of waste. Even the best of them consume two pounds of coal per horse-power per hour, whereas, says Dr. Siemens, when the gas-engine is used, a pound of gas gives forth exactly twice the heat of a pound of coal, and even this may be improved upon. To burn raw coal is to squander our inhabitants. Dr. Siemens gives some startling figures to show that the by-products of the coal annually used in gas-making are worth three millions sterling more than the coal used in producing them, without allowing anything for the value of the gas. Besides the products already utilized, 120,000 tons of sulphur are now wasted every year, which may yet be converted into a source of income. By the use of the gas engine, raw coal, Dr. Siemens maintains that science, with some magician's wand, will "banish the black fog of smoke which hangs over our great cities, and restore to them pure air, bright sunshine and blue skies." Nor shall we even have to suffer as compensation for the multiplication of enormous gasometers. The coal will be converted into gas at the bottom of the mine—a prospect not altogether to be contemplated without alarm by the workers in fiery seams—and the gas carried by pipes wherever it is wanted. Electricity will also be made largely by the utilization of the gas engine. Even after allowing fifty per cent. for loss in transmission, the gain is still chiefly confined to lighting purposes. The gaslight will hold its own as the "man's friend" and gas heating will become universal. Thus in the near future Dr. Siemens unfolds before our eyes a world in which there will be no smoke and no steam, and factors which will only be visible in the immediate vicinity of the pit. Electricity will light our streets, gas will cook our dinners, and driving power will be laid on by wire wherever it is wanted. There will be no pollution of rivers, for every waste product will be utilized, and the sulphurous fumes which have converted whole countries into scenes of dark desolation will be employed in making the wilderness blossom as the rose, and in restoring fertility to the exhausted soil. In short, science at last will begin to banish all the manifest abominations by which "the black age" of man's history has defaced the beauty of our land.—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

## A Sudden Resignation.

"By the way, Jewell, I want your resignation," said President Grant to Postmaster-General Jewell at the close of an official conference.  
"Do you mean that, Mr. President," said the somewhat astonished postmaster-general.  
"I do," was the laconic response of the "Great Silent Man," as he blew a cloud of smoke heavenward.  
"All right," replied Mr. Jewell, and in less than half an hour his resignation was in the hands of the President. This is history as related to the writer by the late Mr. Jewell himself.—*Baltimore American.*

## THE FARM AND HOUSEHOLD.

(They Got Thermometers.)  
"Some years ago," says the Derbyshire Advertiser, "Dr. Voelcker gave a lecture on cheese-making to a number of farmers' wives and dairy-women. At the close of his remarks a lady said: 'What you tell us is all very well, but what you make a cheese?' Yes, I think I can," he answered, "but at any rate I will try if I have a fair chance, and see the thing done from beginning to end. The produce of a great many cheese dairies is spoiled by the cows changing from watery lands, and so forth. Very well," said the doubting cheese-maker, "if you will come I will send to the station for you." A date was agreed upon, and at half-past five on the morning of the 10th, Dr. Voelcker, with a lady and a gentleman, went to the station. He then resided in the neighborhood. So he got up and drove five miles to see the cows milked. When the rennet Amabel had been in the habit of getting, whereupon she dipped in her hands and said, "Yes, I think that will do." The doctor, however, inserted the rennet into the milk, and the milk was done. Hereupon her husband, a smooth-frocked farmer, who was standing by, said: "Ah, Sally! I tell you, you are doing a very good thing. I feel the milk with your hands, instead of testing it with the instrument." At last a large cheese was made and marked, and when sold for more money than the woman had been in the habit of getting. After this nearly all the farmers in the neighborhood presented their wives with a thermometer apiece."

## Hints Concerning Clover.

Clover is sown, as a rule, early in the spring, whether with some grain crop, the cultivated grasses or as a crop by itself. A practice common in the Northern States is to sow clover on late snows in March or April. The analysis of red clover indicates what manures will increase its growth. It contains from thirty-two to thirty-four per cent. of lime and about the same per cent. of potash, with nine to ten per cent. of phosphoric acid, magnesia, etc. As lime enters so largely into its composition, lime deficient in this respect requires generous application of that element. It is also benefited by gypsum (sulphate of lime), the phosphates and wood ashes. Common stable manure, containing as it does all the elements of a good fertilizer, is quite suitable as a top dressing for any pasture or meadow. While gypsum is not always a success on ordinary soils, sown broadcast at the rate of one to three hundred bushels after the leaves are developed, it is a valuable and remarkable growth of stem and leaves. Experiments made by Dr. Pincus, of Germany, regarding the action of gypsum on clover, made it appear that the sulphates of lime, when sown broadcast, and also of the seed, from which he inferred that, while the application of gypsum is favorable to a large increase in the yield of hay, it is not favorable to the development of the clover. Commissioner Killbuck, of Tennessee, says he has rarely found benefit from the top-dressing of gypsum on clayey loams; its effects have always been apparent in the form of a "white" or "dry" season. Gypsum is undoubtedly beneficial on all soils, and it always serves a good end in its highly stimulating effects on well-restored lands where there is a good coat of clover. Both are also an invaluable aid to clovers, their leading elements being lime and phosphoric acid; nitrogen is also abundant. A dressing of bone dust will often quite restore old pastures, and clover will grow on them. Grasses are greatly benefited by wood ashes. A top-dressing of ashes may be applied to grass on all kinds of soil, and it is a good practice to pay the expense attending the application of manure for the use of the soil. For permanent mowing lands ashes are advised when they can be obtained in sufficient quantity.

## Farm and Garden Notes.

So far as getting rid of the weeds and the buds swell in the spring. If cut in the fall or winter, they should be kept in a damp place.  
Where grapes are inclosed in paper bags for protection against insects, a hole should be made in the paper, and a pin-hole in the bottom of it, to permit the moisture to escape after a rain storm.  
To cure warts on cows' legs H. G. Abbott, of Maine, recommends to saturate them three times a week with kerosene oil, and in a short time they will all be gone, leaving the skin smooth and free from sores.  
The watering of pot plants requires special care. As a rule water should be used three times a week, and less than that of the surrounding atmosphere, and preferably after exposure for some time to the air.  
There is little, if any, fertilizing value in ashes. Applied to a clay soil in large quantities, they render it lighter and more porous, allowing air and sunshine to penetrate more freely. For this purpose they are much used by gardeners in the West.  
The absorption that takes place by

## THE FARM AND HOUSEHOLD.

means of the root is principally, though not exclusively, that of fluids, while the absorption that takes place through the agency of the leaf is chiefly, though not entirely, that of gaseous matters.  
The effect of frost upon plants is to cause exudation of the water from the interior of the cells, and the formation of ice outside and between the cells. If the thaw be effected gradually, the water is re-absorbed and the life of the plant is unaffected.  
A correspondent of the Germantown Telegraph makes his granary distasteful to rats by "daubing all the angles on the outside of the building with hot pine tar for the width of three or four inches, and also any seam or crack where a rat or mouse can stand or gnaw."  
Professor Bessey, of the Iowa Agricultural college, says that no application of fertilizer is necessary to prevent smut, as the disease is an internal one. But by applying caustic lime to the seed, which has been previously well washed, the danger from smut will be greatly lessened.  
A French chemist reports that water made slightly salt, and to which, when boiling, bran in the proportion of one quart to every gallon has been added, has been found in a series of experiments to increase the yield of milk twenty-five per cent. if given to the cows in their ordinary drink.  
To break dogs from sucking eggs break an egg, and after pouring out the yolk, put the white part in seven grains of tartar emetic, lay the egg in the yolk, and when the dog has sucked it, repeat. If it is seldom, however, that the dog will suck the egg.

## Hints Concerning Clover.

When the farmer is feeding high-priced grain to fattening stock in winter he has at least the satisfaction of knowing that the manure is of feeding value. A farmer who fed his manure to his stock, and the winter found in the spring that at \$1 per week during the feeding season.  
If the subsoil is loose, open and gravelly, subsoiling is unnecessary upon such land it is generally sufficient to turn over the surface soil and to go no deeper with the plow than the soil can be manured. Gradually, however, the soil will be enriched, the plow may go deeper, but much injury may result by plowing a thin, gravelly soil too deeply at first.  
In pruning trees all stems half an inch or more in diameter should be cut with a sharp knife. It is unnecessary upon such land it is generally sufficient to turn over the surface soil and to go no deeper with the plow than the soil can be manured. Gradually, however, the soil will be enriched, the plow may go deeper, but much injury may result by plowing a thin, gravelly soil too deeply at first.

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